

# WHAT'S UP?

## NEWSLETTER, OXFAM IN NEPAL

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*Photo by Oxfam in Nepal*

## Namaste!

It is my pleasure to be introducing our newsletter for this period.

Protecting ourselves, our colleagues, our partners and the communities we work with within our projects is fundamental to Oxfam. It is a matter of behaviors and a matter of procedures we put in place. When we recognize our own vulnerability, we make rapid progress in embracing attitudes that will prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in our workplace. When we know the rules that regulate conduct and breach, we are properly equipped to respond to safeguarding incidents. Ms. Nicci Morgan, Safeguarding Advisor is dedicating three full weeks to guide us and our partners on this pathway towards safeguarding. The power imbalance that we challenge in our overall approach is also what leads to sexual exploitation, harassment and abuse. Feminist principles form the backbone of the attitude that will lead to an organization being a safe place to work. Thank you for your time and commitment to this and I look forward to hearing the impact of Nicci's work when I visit the field. Biju, with Dixita's support, has done an amazing work in putting this together.

Also, we opened this year with the Davos week of action. Oxfam was in the press alongside Nepali organizations who with us understand poverty as a manifestation of how power is distributed and how resources are controlled rather than redistributed. The messages that we heard during this week were that the economy is growing, and a middle class is developing, but that our attention needs to be on those who are left out of the economic upturn. Oxfam in Nepal wants to accelerate access to resources, create opportunities for voice and leadership and built the resilience of those at the margin of economic growth, political action and social life. We are actively working on getting care work, usually carried out by women and unpaid, recognized as a key economic driver. We are getting traction from government and looking forward to supporting them with this agenda.

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work in the past months.

**Sarah Blin**  
Country Director



# Voices of inequality through canvas

Coinciding with Davos Action of Week, Oxfam in Nepal together with its local partners and civil society networks and alliances organized various events in Kathmandu to raise awareness on growing inequality and voices against it with a call that a just society is impossible without fighting poverty and beating inequality.

A public event was organized in Lalitpur, bringing together artists and civil society activists to speak out for equality through Arts in Canvas where they expressed their views and perspectives through paintings and cartoons against inequality. The event was attended by senior artist including Former Vice Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Fine Arts Kiran Manandhar. The artists called for the concerned stakeholders to act against issues of



inequality and create an environment for equal society. "Artists have played crucial role to win the social, political and cultural freedoms in the country. Now, we must continuously engage in raising awareness of the people against inequality and mobilize them to beat it," said Manandhar.

A national dialogue focusing on unpaid care work was also organized to initiate discussion and understanding of the reality. Civil society leaders and activists, parliamentarians and law practitioners participated in the event where they expressed their views of unpaid care work and the need to take this issue seriously at the policy level. A Nepali translated summary of Oxfam's global report "Time to Care" was distributed during the event for better understanding of the global context.

## Capacity building training for partners on MEAL and Communication Skills



A two-day capacity building training was organized by Creating Spaces (CS) project for Rural Development Center (RDC) Nepal, a project partner organization, in Chandranighapur, Rautahat on 11 and 12 February 2020. The training refreshed the participants with

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL) tools and techniques and communication and report writing skills. A total of 23 participants from CS project partner organizations participated in it.

The training was facilitated by Oxfam in Nepal where Ms. Sofila Vaidya facilitated sessions focusing on communication skills and Mr. Rajan Wagle on MEAL and report writing techniques and skills. The event was able to impart knowledge and skills to participants on how to communicate well with our stakeholders and communities we work with, write case studies, success stories, and take good photographs considering the branding guidelines and concepts of MEAL.

## Collaboration with provincial government for resources and knowledge



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

Oxfam in Nepal's Sowing Diversity and Harvesting Security (SD=HS) project partner Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development LI-BIRD has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project and Agriculture Knowledge Centre in Doti and Dadeldhura. The MoU is an agreement between the parties to work on rice and soya bean crops and develop and use plant genetic resources to improve food and nutritional security in the face of increasing climate change. The agreement will help the project partner and Oxfam to

share and exchange knowledge and resources for adoption, testing and registration of soya bean and rice landraces suitable to the climate in the province.

The SD=HS project funded by SIDA has been implemented in Kanchanpur, Kailali, Doti and Dadeldhura districts for the period of three years. It aims to have indigenous people and smallholder farmers enjoy their rights and have capacity to access, develop and use plant genetic resources to improve their food and nutritional security under conditions of climate change.

## Uplifting lives through beekeeping



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

Shanta Tamang, beekeeper from Chepang community is glad to share her happiness with Enterprise Development Program (EDP) team after receiving good return of beekeeping, enhanced skills on beekeeping and cash transaction of her product.

EDP is being implemented by Oxfam in collaboration with a Sagar Beekeeping Industry (SBKI) and Women Skills Creation

Center in Chepang Community of Raksirang Rural Municipality Makawanpur since September 2019. The program aims to provide farmers with assured market with additional income, business development support, required skills and equipment.

Out of 200 households in the community, most of the households depend on beekeeping with annual honey production of 30 tons. Lower price of NPR 200 per Kg, credit sales up to one year, no market guarantee and low technical knowledge were the major problems faced by Chepang beekeepers. SBKI with motive of purchasing honey and providing assured market to the beekeepers

provided five-day beekeeping trainings with support from EDP. The intervention created competition among the existing honey traders resulting price increment by NPR 50 per Kg, on time payment and the traders cover cost transportation. EDP supported the beekeepers with different beekeeping equipment worth NPR 60,000. SBKI and WSCC allocated NPR 500,000 for the same facilitated coordination with Rakasirang Rural Municipality that succeeded in getting access to market and selling the product in reasonable price.

EDP has a plan to support 500 beekeepers, and, so far, it has already supported 70 community members.



# Donor's visit to Safe Water project sites



A two-day visit to Safe Water project by donor Paul due Jensen Foundation took place on 25 and 26 January 2020. The project team and Mr. Nils Thoruph from the donor foundation visited Sarlahi and Rautahat districts where the Safe Water project is being implemented to provide safe water to vulnerable poor

communities through hybrid water supply system.

The main aim of the visit was to assess the progress of the construction work, collection of household connection fee and household visit to see the changes in hygiene and sanitation activities. Joint meeting was conducted with

ward secretariat and Water and Sanitation Users Committee to discuss about their experience and contribution in water supply project. Meeting was conducted with the board members of Bagmati Welfare Society Nepal (BWSN) to share the progress of the activities. Impressed by the construction work going on in the field, Thoruph provided feedback on technical matters for construction.

He was very pleased to stick the sticker in 100th household for household connection fee. He also recommended for the video documentary and publication of learning document of the construction work and community voices.

## Capacity Enhancement of Oxfam and partners' staff on Safeguarding

Ms. Nicci Morgan, Global Safeguarding Advisor visited Nepal from February 17 to March 7, 2020 with a major objective to build the capacity of Oxfam and partners' staff on safeguarding, reviewing safeguarding system and recommending appropriate measures to roll out safeguarding at partner and beneficiary level. The training was provided to 20 safeguarding champions and focal points from Oxfam and 25 partner members at Ageno, Lalitpur.

Through this capacity building, safeguarding focal points, champions and partners were able to understand about Oxfam's thinking and position on

key safeguarding issues, what action to take if an allegation of abuse is reported or suspected, how to handle disclosures, how to report cases, management of cases and how to embed safeguarding within key country program operations.

Male and female focus group discussions were also conducted with Oxfam staff

to ascertain views on how we can work with staff, partners and the community to raise awareness about safeguarding. Field visit was also conducted to Dhading, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Sindhupalchowk to understand how projects are currently being delivered with safeguarding perspective and to understand how risk is mitigated.





# Donor visit to Creating Spaces project sites



Photo by Oxfam in Nepal

Ms. Janet Yates, representative from Global Affaires Canada (GAC) visited Creating Spaces to take action on Violence Against Women and Girls (CS) country project in Nepal. She visited Rapti Sunari and Duduwa Rural Municipalities of Banke where the project is being implemented.

Janet visited Community Discussion Centre (CDC) and interacted with participants, Child Club (CC) members, stakeholders and partners. She also observed interactive

forum theatre performance of child club in Rapti Sunari Rural Municipality. The visit tries to comprise major approaches of CS project in Banke. "The project seems very wide and entrenched. I am happy to meet outspoken women and girls who are part of this project. The support this project is getting from newly-elected local-level stakeholders is tremendously amazing. It seems they have owned our campaign and are ready to contribute on these issues of CEFM and VAWG even

after the project's life", said Janet during her debriefing with Oxfam team.

CS project focusses mainly on reducing child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and violence against women and girls (VAWG). The project duration is from 2016 to 2021 and is being implemented in Rautahat, Banke, Dailekh and Baitadi districts. Federal level policy advocacy is also a part of this project which is being done by Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) with support of Oxfam.



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## FEEDBACK?

Do you have programme updates, stories, pictures, videos to share? Or, any important questions on the newsletter?

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